

Smallpox On Decline in U.S.A., County Health Officer Reports

ROY O. GILBERT, M.D., County Health Officer

Smallpox was once one of the world's most prevalent diseases, but the number of cases is now so reduced that the disease is not often encountered. Only 193 cases have been reported as smallpox in the United States since 1948. No cases of the disease have occurred in Los Angeles County since 1940 and none in California since 1949. However, as the recent outbreak in Germany shows, there is always the possibility that it may be imported.

This highly contagious disease has been preventable since 1798 when Dr. Edward Jenner discovered the principle of vaccination. There are still many places in the world, however, where the population remains unvaccinated. Travelers passing through these areas may get the disease and spread it to other countries, as did the sick physician who recently carried smallpox from India to Heidelberg, Germany, where an outbreak of the illness subsequently occurred.

THE SMALLPOX virus may be transmitted by contact with the person ill with the disease. It is also spread by articles or persons freshly contaminated by oral and nasal discharges, or by lesions of the skin and mucous membranes of the sick. The virus is also airborne over short distances within closed spaces. The scabs remain infectious for variable periods, most often from two to three weeks.

Anyone who has not already had the disease or who has not been vaccinated against it within the last three years may be susceptible. The disease is most communicable in its early stages, and one attack usually confers a permanent immunity.

Luckily for the nonimmune population, the type of smallpox attack that generally appears in this country is mild. More severe forms occur elsewhere in the world and are occasionally brought into this country from abroad. Seattle had 68 cases with 20 deaths during 1946, when the disease was carried in from the Orient.

SYMPTOMS USUALLY appear in from seven to 16 days after exposure to the smallpox virus. A high fever, headache, backache, and muscle pain are present. Within three to four

Print-Making To Highlight Art Exhibit

A demonstration of fine print-making to be given from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday will highlight the work of Vicki Feldon, Torrance artist, at the Open Gallery, 335 Culver Blvd., Playa del Rey.

Designed by the artist, the fine prints will be executed in wood, linoleum and masonite blocks. Cutting tools, printing papers and printing methods will be included in the demonstration.

Also on exhibit until Feb. 8 will be paintings by Mrs. Feldon in oil, caseins, water colors and poster colors. A graduate of Cooper Union Art Institute, New York City, Mrs. Feldon has previously exhibited locally and in the east. She resides at 815 Fonthill Ave.

EDUCATORS MEET

Torrance School Supt. J. H. Hull hosted 17 other school superintendents from this area at an all-day meeting in the Educational Materials Building here Friday.

The group discussed problems relating to education in this area and ate lunch at South High School.

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days a red rash appears, and the temperature drops. The dots of the rash rise and become red bumps on the skin. They then turn into blisters filled with a watery substance that gradually changes into pus.

The rash generally first appears on the face and forearms. It may eventually cover the entire body or remain scattered and mild. The blisters gradually dry, and a scab or crust forms over them. About three weeks after the appearance of symptoms the scabs drop off, leaving pitted scars in their place.

There is no specific cure for smallpox. Once the infection begins, it runs its course. Isolation of the sick person is very important and individuals who have been exposed to the disease are quarantined until released by a health officer.

SMALLPOX VACCINE gives specific protection against this disease and it may be obtained from any physician or at any health center. The protection thus obtained generally lasts from three to five years, although its complete effectiveness may vary from two years to 20. Children should be vaccinated against smallpox at about three months of age, and revaccinated upon entering school.

In this era of rapid travel and transportation, there is always the possibility of the spread of smallpox despite immunization rules imposed on travelers by the federal government. Protection against it should be maintained.

MEMO TO WALTER... HERALD CARRIER BOY

It could be you. It COULD be you. Or it could be YOU. And it WAS you. Wasn't it Walter?

Yes, Walter Miller, HERALD carrier-boy, you who live with your daddy and mommy, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Miller of 18433 Mansel St. It WAS you, last Monday.

Remember how you traveled into Los Angeles with the El Nido PTA to see the television program "It Could Be You"? Remember your surprise when you heard your own name being called, and found your feet carrying you towards the platform and the cameras as your heart began to pound and your head began to reach the clouds?

Remember seeing famed accordionist Dick Cantino on stage? And remember feeling as though you were in a dream when he presented YOU with an accordion, right there in front of the cameras for the entire nation of viewers to see?

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Local Chamber Paid Homage By National Group

Torrance Chamber of Commerce was one of five California chambers named this week by Arch N. Booth, executive vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, to receive a "Citation for All-Around Achievement in Organizational Activities in 1958."

The local chamber will be judged in the final awards competition of the U. S. Chamber next month.

Fields of activity on which the judging was based were: business development, community betterment, economic understanding, educational activities, legislative actions, and organization improvement.

GARDENERS CHECKLIST

1. Bareroot roses are still at the top of all planting lists. Don't try to plant them if soil is too heavy and wet, however. In such a case, bury the roots and wait until the ground dries a bit.
2. Deciduous fruit trees should be pruned now. Check a pruning guide to make sure you cut out the right wood on the particular tree you're pruning.
3. Begonia tubers are arriving back on the market now. Sprout them indoors to get an early crop of blooms. Don't set outside if danger of frost is not past in your area.
4. For fruit in the small garden, try planting three different trees in one hole. Your nurseryman will show you how to prune them for planting this way.
5. In most areas a long list of annuals can be set out now for spring and early summer bloom. If frost is still common in your garden, ask your nurseryman how and when to plant these.

'Youth' to Be Topic Of Sermon

"Let No One Despise the Youth" will be the Youth Sunday sermon topic to be delivered at 11 a.m. services at the First Presbyterian Church of Gardena by Dr. R. Murray Jones, minister.

A Bible study course led by the minister will get under way this evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room of the new church. In addition to the weekly Thursday evening meetings, the minister will also conduct morning sessions at 10 a.m. each Wednesday.

Mothers' Council, which normally meets the fourth Thursday of the month, will meet January 29.



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